

Conspiracy X - Eidolon

Paradigm Shift

Eidolon 1.0

Hook

The cell leader is called and told to assemble his team. A US Air force training jet has collided with an OEO (Object of Extraterrestrial Origin), which brought down both the jet and the OEO. A team of Air Force investigators is en route at this moment and it is imperative that they do not find any trace of extraterrestrial activity. If any aliens have survived, orders are to terminate them before they put the general populous at risk.

Setting

Negaunee, MI

Conflict

Aegis Vs Saurians

The Plot Twist

One of the Saurians did survive and set its ship to self-destruct as soon as a non-saurian entered it. The Croll has run for shelter in a nearby converted mine in the hope that investigators will assume it was killed in the blast and it will eventually be able to contact its home base for rescue.

Cast List

Xulan	Croll Warrior.
Captain McCormack	USAF Investigator
Mr Robson	Old Crochety Hermit

Places

Negaunee Mine (converted to a museum).
The crash site.

Adversaries

Xulan was scouting for Gna-tall installations when his fighter was hit by a lumpen human flying wing. He has lost his ship and is terrified that the Gna-tall will track him here due to the crash. Luckily Black Book agents haven't heard the news yet, but they will very soon. Xulan has been specifically bred to be a predator and is not planning on being taken alive to be interrogated. He has set the ship to self-

destruct in order to kill as many of his enemies as possible and is hoping to escape.

Overview

The USAF task force is on its way to the crash site led by Captain McCormack. He is not a pawn of any of the shadow agencies and this leads to awkward questions. He thinks the jet collided with something normal and if good evidence is given he will believe it.

The fighter pilot is dead and the jet is mangled almost beyond recognition. No telemetry can be got from it.

The Croll fighter is set to self-destruct as soon as someone goes in. The agents should be able to see the timer. An audible warning will sound but as it's in Croll it's not much use.

Very few people live near here and the only one who has seen the 'lizard-man' is Old Man Robson, an eccentric hermit who occasionally takes tourists round the old mine site for a bit of cash to supplement his veteran's pension. He is terrified and may mistake the agents for more 'lizard-things.'

The mine looks old, rickety and not very safe at all but this is all an illusion for tourists and it is in fine condition. It was bordered up for the night but Xulan has pulled away the shuttering to get in.

The climax of the scenario will be cornering Xulan and his powerclaw either in the darkness of the mine/museum or on the roof as he attempts to signal his colleagues.

Plot Points

- The Phone Call
- Gathering the Team
- The Crash Sites
- Military Confrontation
- Tracking the Saurian
- The Old Hermit
- The Mine
- Resolution and Return

The Phone Call

At just after 8pm on a clear Tuesday night in September, the cell leader gets a phone call on his HERMES cell phone. "Good Evening <charname>, this is Travis. Aunt Martha is ill and requests to speak to you in private." Travis Bewley is the cell leader's Aegis contact and this is a coded message that something requires the cell to activate and for the leader to get to a place where the phone-call will not be overheard. The cell leader is informed that just less than ten minutes ago the collision of an Air Force jet with an unknown object was reported over the skies of Marquette County. The Air Force are claiming that the inexperienced pilot collided with a radio antennae while on low altitude practice but UFO report sites are claiming they saw an alien spacecraft just minutes before the crash. HERMES has tracked the larger of the two bodies and concurs. A military investigation unit is already on its way to the site but the agents have the location advantage being only 20 minutes drive away. Orders are to disguise or dispose of any alien technology before the USAF get there then to track down any surviving alien life forms before they pose a risk to the local population. Taking it alive is not an option at this point as no containment facilities close the U.P. are strong enough to hold alien life.

Gathering the Team

The cell leader has scant minutes to call together the team before they have to leave for the crash site. If they spend more than 20 minutes getting together they may run into opposition from the military. All should live around Marquette and a rendezvous point should be agreed. The agents can have with them any equipment they could sensibly grab at 8pm at night.

The Crash Sites

Both crash sites are northwest of Negaunee town and north of the centre of Teal Lake, west north west of the Beverly Hills suburb. Due to the heavy rain, the roads are somewhat treacherous and if the PCs want to take their vehicles off-road they will require driving rolls.

The crash site closest to the road is the downed fighter jet. The cockpit was crumpled mid-flight and the ejection system could not function properly. Cadet Pilot James Craven was dead on impact, his body burnt by the explosion and the jet mangled beyond all recognition. Part of the engine and a fair amount of the fuel tank was ripped off during the crash. It is nowhere to be found and did, in fact, land in the lake itself.

The Croll fighter wreckage is deep in the woods and is not quite as mangled as the jet. The top hatch has been popped and there are dark red splotches that can be identified as blood around the exit. As soon as someone enters the hatch they can see a dead centauroid Saurian and suddenly a voice booms out in a monotone:

"Xicahua zayolla.
Marka ompehua.
Hi mictla."

A circular ring of LEDs starts to flash then the lights start to go out one by one in an anti-clockwise direction. Hopefully the PCs should recognise this as a countdown and vacate the ship immediately. Bad things like 90% burns and melted skin happen to those that don't. The explosion will utterly slag the Croll fighter down into a small amount of molten metal. It will also leave a better view of the faint blood trail leading off into the trees.

There is an additional tripwire trigger for the self-destruction of the ship on the trail taken by Xulan which he hope will slow down any pursuers.

Military Confrontation

The air force will arrive within 20 minutes of the PCs getting to the crash site. Captain McCormack is not a patient man and has forced the USAF drivers to move as fast as they could in this weather. Military medics are also with the group but no survivors are expected. Luckily McCormack has no idea about the hidden war and is oblivious to the alien threat. If the players let him get to the Croll fighter before it self-destructs then they are in big trouble. However, if it does blow, when McCormack's team investigate it they may

come to the perfectly rational conclusion that this was the engine and fuel tank that had become separated, as long as no suspicious activity is observed.

If the USAF catches the PCs they can try to bluff their way out. McCormack had not put a notice out with the police and locals might be expected to come and gawp or even see if there is any way they can help. Just make sure the agents know that every moment they spend chatting with the USAF is one more moment the Saurian is using to escape.

Tracking the Saurian

The trail left by the Saurian is subtle but is noticeable by a trained tracker. Xulan is bleeding and is not being as careful as he would normally be. Broken twigs and Saurian footprints will still be visible for half an hour or so despite the rain, blood will only be visible for about 10 minutes outside the crash site. Xulan is slowed and did take some time to escape from the craft with his injuries so the PCs will not be that far behind him.

The Old Hermit

As the agents get closer to the mine to the north and the trees start to thin, they come across a small cabin on the edge of the cleared strip for the mine-works. They will see that further into the cleared area is a definite blood spray pattern on the ground. As they emerge, Old Man Robson is standing on his porch with a shotgun and is rambling on about 'damned lizard-men' while waving the shotgun around. He's been drinking quite heavily since Xulan disturbed him (getting shot in the process) and is highly unlikely to hit anyone with the gun but the agents ought to get a shock or two. If calmed down, Mr Robson will tell them how a 'lizard-man' came poking his shack and how he got ol' Bessie and nailed it right in the chest. He saw Xulan limp off towards the mine.

The Mine

Xulan is taking shelter in the top level of the mine surrounded by boxes marked 'dynamite' and such. If the agents have talked to Mr Robson they'll know that these are all for show and that the mine actually

closed down over 25 years ago. He is trying to get to a higher elevation to get a distress signal to his kin but if he notices the team he will try to escape into a room marked 'explosive store' which is, in fact, the Gift Shop. This will confuse the Saurian who was preparing to blow up himself and his pursuers by self destructing the Power-claw among the explosives and bringing down the roof to hopefully take some of the agents down with him. Attempting to escape this human trickery he will carry on towards the roof access until intercepted by the cell.

Resolution and Return

Once the players return (with or without Xulan's body and/or Power-claw) they will be congratulated by Travis (as long as they didn't make any major mistakes or totally screw up with the USAF). He will explain that due to this unforeseen event his superiors have decided to bring the team in full time rather than on a case-by-case basis. They are to be given resources to facilitate this and Travis is to be their main link to Aegis. The only stipulation is that when they choose a base they stay clear of the Marquette waterfront. No reason will be given.

The agents can head home for a good night's rest before starting to put their base together tomorrow.